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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know whether it is fact that representations have been made by the boards of Ganjam on this question."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" At present I have no information."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know whether the hon. Minister will be pleased to communicate with the headquarter hospital authorities in my district to give facilities for the training of nurses."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" That will be considered duly."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" In Vellore there is a hospital with about 100 beds with every facility. Is it not convenient for the Government to arrange for the training of nurses and midwives there? Government are making contribution to a Mission hospital there; can they not arrange for the training of nurses in that hospital just as they do in a Mission hospital in Madras—I mean the Rainy Hospital."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I thought the hon. Member was referring to the training in Mission hospitals. But if he means that training should be given in Government hospitals, I may say that we have not yet come to the conclusion to extend facilities to every hospital. We have just started the training of midwives and nurses in one or two hospitals and we can proceed only step by step, and when opportunity comes, other hospitals also will have their chance."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" In view of the answer given to my hon. Friend from Cuddapah, may I point out to the hon. Minister that there is a first-class hospital at Kurnool? If he is aware of that, will he include that hospital also in his scheme of training midwives and dhais?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The Government are aware that there is a first rate hospital in Kurnool. If there are facilities for extending the scheme to that hospital also, it will be considered."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" With regard to the training of Muhammadan women as dhais and midwives, there is a hospital in Vizagapatam for Gosha ladies; may I ask the hon. the Minister whether such women cannot be trained in that hospital?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am thankful to the Member for the suggestion and it will be duly considered."

Contract for the supply of stores to Government hospitals in Madras during the last five years.

* 152 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased—

(i) to place before the House a statement of the various firms to which contracts were given for supply of medical and other stores to the Government hospitals in Madras during the last five years; and

(ii) to state—

(*a*) the system according to which medical and other stores are obtained for Government hospitals in Madras and the rest of the Presidency;

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(b) whether the system of contracting for the supply of stores to Government medical hospitals has been stopped ;

(c) if so, under what circumstances and on what grounds ; and

(d) how the stores are now obtained, from whom and wherefrom?

A.—(i) & (ii) It is assumed that by "medical and other stores" the hon. Member means drugs, dressings, instruments and appliances. Until 1927-28 these articles were obtained from the Government Medical Store Depot, Madras. Articles which were not available there were obtained through the Store Department of the India Office, London. The system of contracting for the supply of these stores has been started only during the current year in respect of two hospitals in Madras and four hospitals in the mufassal and no conclusion can yet be deduced from the experiment.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I know wherefrom the Medical Store Depot gets its supplies?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The Government have no information."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"May I ask the hon. the Minister whether he is aware that tenders are called for for the articles required by the Medical Depot and whether it is a fact that the offer of a local firm that used to supply cotton to Government hospitals before, at annas 12 per pound was rejected and that the Government accepted another tender at Rs. 2 per lb. from a foreign firm? And what is the amount that is lost by the Government by accepting the latter tender and rejecting the former."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Last year?"

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"Yes."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I am not aware of that."

Mr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"I am sorry I have to ask him for this information and as a Member of the Government he ought to have paid some attention to this question. This question was ventilated in the Press and we were given to understand that Government stood to lose nearly Rs. 50,000 by this transaction. I want to know whether that system is going to be encouraged and whether it is also the present policy of the Government?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"If there is any real grievance, I am quite prepared to enquire into the matter."

Training given to assistant surgeons sent to Edinburgh hospitals.

*153 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether many of the assistant surgeons who are given study leave go to the Edinburgh hospitals ; and

(b) whether the Government have information that no coaching or practical training of any sort is given to them there, except that of watching cases from a distance?